Whose shouts and claps out-voice the deep-mouth'd
sea,
Which, like a mighty whiffler[5] fore the king
Seems to prepare his way: so let him land;
And, solemnly, see him set on to London.
So swift a pace hath thought, that even now
You may imagine him upon Blackheath:
Where that his lords desire him, to have borne[6]
His bruised helmet, and his bended sword,
Before him, through the city: he forbids it,

5 —a mighty WHIFFLER—] An officer who walks first in processions, or before persons in high stations, on occasions of ceremony. The name is still retained in London, and there is an officer so called that walks before their companies at times of publick solemnity. It seems a corruption from the French word *huissier*. HANMER.

See Mr. T. Warton's note to the tragedy of Othello, Act III. Sc. II.

In the play of Clyomon, Knight of the Golden Shield, &c. 1599, a *whiffler* makes his appearance at a tournament, clearing the way before the King. In Westward Hoe, by Decker and Webster, 1697, the term is often mentioned.

Again, in Monsieur D'Olive, 1606:

"I can go into no corner, but I meet with some of *mywhifflers*
in their accoutrements; you may hear them half a mile ere they
come at you."

"— I am afraid of nothing but that I shall be balladed, I and all my *tohiffle*rs."

Again, in Westward Hoe, 1607: "The torchmen and *tiohiffle*n had an item to receive him."

Again, in TEXNOFAMIA, 1618:

"Tobacco is a *iuhiffle*r,
"And cries huff snuff! with furie:
"His pipe's his club and linke," &c.

Again, in The Isle of Gulls, 1606: "And Manasses shall go before like a *>whiffle*r, and make way with his horns." STEEVENS.

A more correct explanation of this word may be found in Mr. Douce's Illustrations of Shakspeare, vol. i. p. 506: but it is too long for insertion here. Bo SWELL.

6 — to HAVE borne, &c.] The construction is, to have his bruised helmet, &c. borne before him through the city: i. e. to

order it to be borne. This circumstance also our author found *in* Holinshed. MALONE.